

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 619

By Pleasant

A RESOLUTION to honor Marily Humphreys Gaines for
excellence in the education of Tennessee's
youth.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Marily Humphreys Gaines is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, born on a small farm outside Arlington that has been in her family since 1870, Mrs. Gaines is the daughter of Clinton and Lillian Humphreys, who from a very young age instilled in Marily the value of education and the nobility of the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of West Tennessee Normal Teacher's College, Clinton Humphreys taught at several Shelby County schools before leaving the profession to enter the wholesale flower business; Lillian Humphreys taught in Shelby County for nearly forty years after graduating from Memphis Normal School; and

WHEREAS, thus, perhaps predisposed to a lifelong love of learning, Marily Humphreys Gaines devoted herself early on to increasing her personal knowledge and wisdom, and she graduated from Bolton High School as Valedictorian; and

WHEREAS, in preparation for a career in which she has enlightened more than 5,000 young minds, she earned a Bachelor of Arts from Sophie Newcomb College of Tulane University; she later earned a Master of Education degree from the University of Memphis, and completed thirty additional graduate hours at Cumberland University; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from college, Mrs. Gaines accepted a teaching position at Nicholas Blackwell (Bartlett) High School, where she continues to serve with acumen and alacrity after thirty-five exemplary years; and

WHEREAS, a Career Level II teacher, she is extremely active in her school community, having served as sponsor of the freshmen cheerleaders, as sponsor of the school's yearbook for twelve years, and as a member of the Executive Board for the National Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, Marily Humphreys Gaines is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; when she is not quoting Twain or otherwise trying to pack as much American Literature into one year as is possible, she is renowned for sharing her considerable wisdom with each year's group of students; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gaines truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel is highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; it surprised no one, but deeply affected many, when this patriotic American once delayed a morning lesson to give a brief monologue concerning the immense respect and reverence that should be paid to the American flag, regardless of one's personal beliefs, since we all benefit from living in this great nation; and

WHEREAS, this gifted educator's ambition during her career has been to introduce young minds to the wonderful world of literature, a world in which they are free to be anyone, go anywhere, and do anything, freed by the great authors from all constraint; she is a master of showing her students how literature affects their lives; and

WHEREAS, residing in the same classroom since the 1970s, Mrs. Gaines teaches English III Honors, English III Standard, and Creative Writing, her love of teaching clearly

evident all the while; wholly devoted to the students of Bartlett High School, she has never even considered teaching at another school; and

WHEREAS, an active and invaluable contributor to her profession, Mrs. Gaines is a member of the Memphis and Shelby County Teachers of English, Shelby County Education Association, Tennessee Education Association, and National Education Association; she is highly respected as a leader of the utmost ability and merit and was appointed to the Tennessee State Textbook Commission in 2001; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional educator has long been recognized by her peers and students for her incomparable excellence; among her many honors and awards are nomination for the 1988 and 1990 Outstanding Teacher of Memphis Partners Inc. Exemplary Teacher Award; selection in 1994 to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*; selection in 1994, 1995, and as 2000 Senior Class Favorite Teacher; selection as one of ten finalists for the 1995 Mid-South's Thanks to a Teacher Excellence Award; selection by the 1994 University of Tennessee at Martin Freshman Class as one of the most outstanding teachers in their lives; recognition as one of Tennessee's outstanding teachers by the 1996 and 2001 attendees of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts; recognition in 2001 by Rhodes College for her positive influence in the preparation of students for college; and nomination in 2001 for Disney's American Teachers Awards for Creative Teachers; and

WHEREAS, her professional accomplishments aside, Marily Humphreys Gaines is devoted to the highest ideals of family and community; she is most thankful for the great love and companionship she has shared with her high school sweetheart, David E. Gaines, since their marriage in 1968; Mr. Gaines is also active in the family floral business; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gaines is the proud and loving mother of two daughters, Holly Joanna and Ashley Dawn; and

WHEREAS, Ashley has followed in her mother's footsteps as an English teacher at Cordova High School and has thus carried on the family's laudable teaching tradition; Holly is a

Customer Service Representative at George Jones and Company, P.C. and is renowned for singing the National Anthem at area sporting events; and

WHEREAS, Marily Humphreys Gaines truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Marily Humphreys Gaines for thirty-five years of unsurpassed excellence in education, commend her exceptional service to the youth of Shelby County and Tennessee as a teacher at Bartlett High School, salute her professional expertise and remarkable diligence and devotion, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.